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STRANGE AND UNKNOWN

BY LEE WALSH

Every now and then,something pops up in the news which tends to revive interest in our friend Big Foot, the American Yeti.

A strange looking "thing" resembling something between man and ape has been purchased by New Yorker Michael Miller from an unidentified animal act upstate New York (See Page 27). Miller paid $8,000 for Oliver, the name that the creature answers to.

Oliver has features which are found on no other animal in the ape family. He is hairy all over, stands erect and has pointed ears like Spock of TV Star Trek fame. His age is given as 7 years and his weight is 120 lbs.

Miller plans to put Oliver through various tests to determine whether he is an ape or a man-like creature. "I have promised to protect everyone involved," said the 34

Artist's Rendition Of Michael Miller's "Oliver"

year old Miller in explaining why he's so secretive about where Oliver came from.

Miller said that he doesn't think that Oliver is Big Foot but, if he is, his $8,000 will turn out to be a good investment.

UFO investigators have tried to link the mysterious Big Foot to the UFO enigma. In a series of sightings across the nation, it was found that in many cases, unusual creatures would appear in the same vicinity in which UFOs were making frequent landings.

Dick Bothwell writing in the **NATIONAL OBSERVER** Told about the mysterious "Skunk Ape" seen in the Everglades.

"There were five of us camped on top of this big shell mound—three in a large tent, two in a pup tent. About 2:30 A.M. one of the two heard a sound like an elephant walking on this shell mound. The vibrations woke him up.

He looked out of the tent flap and saw what appeared to be a big man, standing about eight feet away in the moonlight. He thought it was one of the party. He lay back down, then heard what sounded like a number of people all talking at once.

"So the two of them in the pup tent got up and woke us up—told what he'd seen. We looked around but saw nothing. But in the morning we found these huge tracks.

"Footprints just like a man's, three different sizes. The largest 17½ inches long, 11 inches across. I've got plaster casts of it..."

These quotes come from none other than H.C.Osbon of Miami who is president of the Peninsular Archaeological Society and board member of the Miami Museum of Science. Since 1971 Mr. Osbon and a handful of society members have made various trips down to this remote part of the Everglades known as Big Cypress Swamp.

So far no photographs of the elusive beast have been taken but a collection of fecal matter and eye-witness observations have convinced Osbon that Big Cypress is the home of this creature.

Osbon's sighting was followed quickly by residents of the King's Manor trailer park,about 15 miles west of Ft. Lauderdale along the North River Canal. They informed police that a large creature "having a monkey's face,long arms, small eyes and gray splotches all over" had frightened two youths.

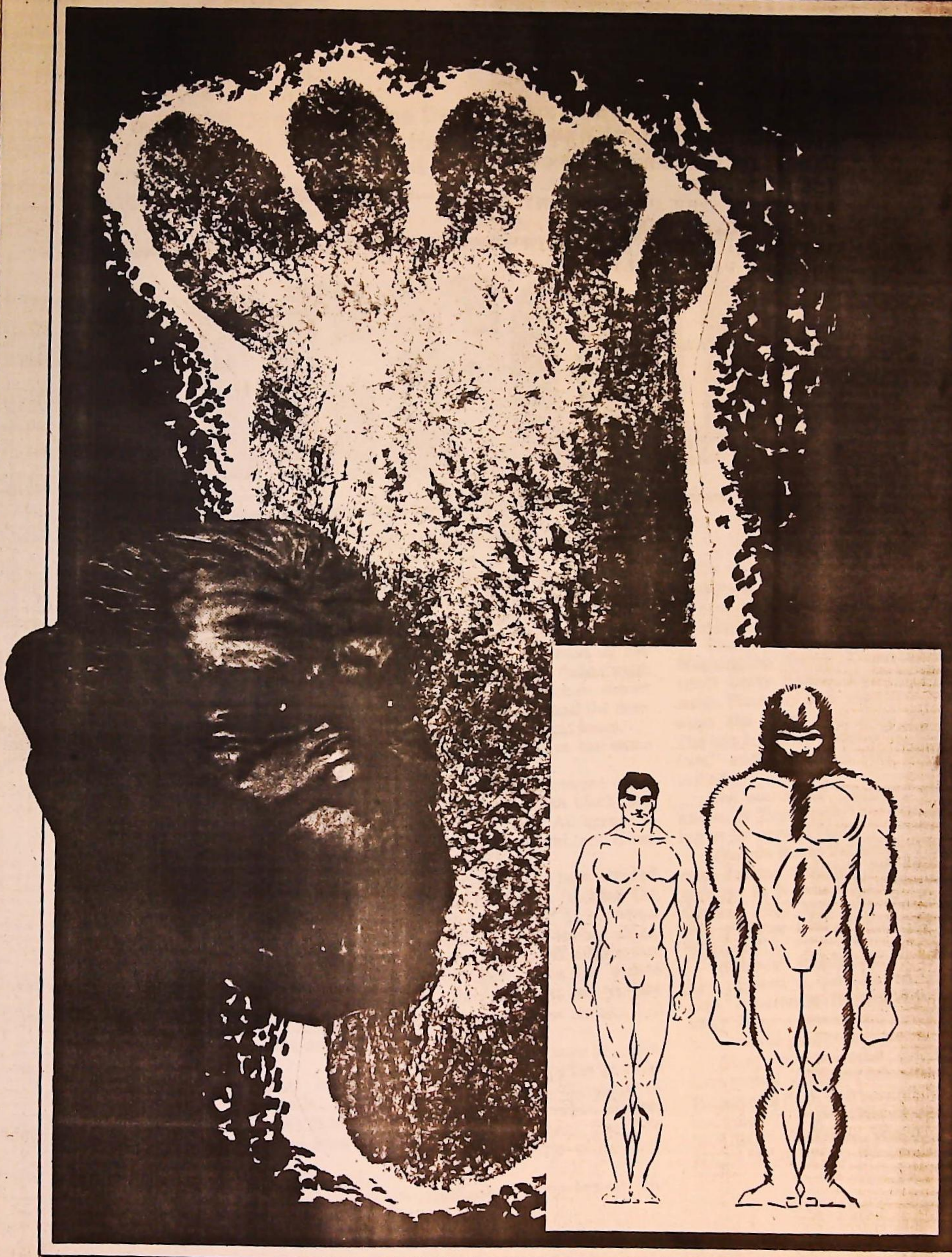
Apparently stories of this "monster" have been told for hundreds of years. The lore of the local Indian tribes tell of a "Skunk Ape" nicknamed because he is said to emit a powerful odor.

Amid all the "Skunk Ape" talk Mr. Osbon has revealed that there are strange structures, perhaps thousands of years old, which have been found in the Everglades. He believes that they may have actually originated as part of the continent of Atlantis.

"There are at least two pyramids and several walls in there," says Osbon. "The one pyramid is about 12 feet high and for the life of you, you can't tell where the rocks were fitted together. It has a tremendous amount of hieroglyphic writing and symbols on it.The wall is 4½ miles northeast of the pyramid and runs six or seven miles. It's made of stone slabs piled atop one another and stands six to eight feet high in places. The second pyramid is in water—12 to 14 feet sticking up out of the swamp."

Speculation is that these pyramids are artifacts

(Continued on page 50)



The Youths All Gave The Same Description: The Animal Was Between Eight And Nine Feet Tall, With Black Hair And Human Features. All Agreed It Stood Extremely Upright, And Shied Away From The Light...Had These Boys Stumbled Upon The Mysterious...

BIGFOOT!

BY J. GOSNEY AND D. GROVER

Three shaken Tacoma youths, bear hunting south of Rimrock Lake Wednesday evening believe they saw a creature resembling a Sasquatch.

The youths' report, related to Yakima County sheriff's deputy Larry Gamache hours after the reported sighting, led Gamache to believe they had, indeed, seen "something" similar to the legendary "Bigfoot."

Gamache said the three youths, Tom V. Gerstmar, 17; Earl Thomas, 18; and Jerry Lazzar, 16, were camped at Section 3 Lake on Pinegrass Ridge approximately 20 miles south of Rimrock Lake off the South Fork of the Tieton River.

While bear hunting in the area, the trio heard noises about dusk and began to hike back to their camp. Feeling they were being followed, they shined their flashlight back up the trail but could not see anything.

Upon reaching their camp, about 9 P.M., the youths built a fire. More noises were heard and Thomas shined his flashlight in the general direction of the sounds.

Across a nearby small pond, Thomas spotted greenish-yellow eyes, eyes also seen by Gerstmar. The youths returned to camp and talked the matter over.

Finally, Gerstmar returned to the pond and again turned on the light. This time he saw "what went with the eyes," Gamache's report read. All three boys looked the creature over in the flashlight beam.

The youths all gave the same description:

The animal was between eight and nine feet tall, with black hair and human features. All agreed it stood extremely upright, and shied away from the light.

At that point, the boys decided to fire their rifles to frighten the creature. After they fired seven shots from two large-caliber rifles, the creature moved off a little, but remained close. When the youths shined the flashlight on it, the creature growled, then screamed at them.

Frightened, the boys abandoned their tent and supplies and fled toward Trout Lodge. Gerstmar reported he nearly wrecked his jeep in his haste to get away. They telephoned the sheriff's office from the Lodge.

Gamache interviewed the youths at his home on White Pass shortly afterward and reported he believed the three had definitely "seen something."

Gamache, another deputy and Washington Game Department agent Larry Konen, went to the camp Thursday and searched for what the boys may have seen. The trio found no evidence of "Bigfoot," and the camp was undisturbed.

The search for "Bigfoot," also known as "Sasquatch," has been going on for several years.

The late Roger Patterson, a former Yakima resident, reported a sighting in Northern California in October 1967 and took about 10 feet of 8mm film of a purported "Bigfoot."

Although widely criticized, the film showed a black-haired creature, apparently female, walking away from a creek bank, turning back once to gaze at the camera.

Footprints and other evidence have piqued additional interest since Patterson's film, and several books and research projects have resulted. (SOURCE: Yakima, Washington *HERALD—REPUBLIC* October 3, 1975).

What follows is the transcript of a taped interview with Earl Thomas, 18, one of three witnesses to an alledged "Bigfoot" sighting on October 1, 1975 at Section 3 Lake on Pinegrass Ridge approximately 20 miles south of Rimrock Lake, Washington. The interview was conducted by Dick Grover on October 15, 1975 at the Thomas's residence in Tacoma. Mr. Grover is the Director of *Project Discovery* A Washington State based group involved in Bigfoot investigations.

Grover; Could you relive the experience and tell us just what happened?

Thomas; We started up the hill and Tom was on the trail ahead of us. He was about 25 to 50 yards in front of us when something went up these rocks in front of us. It went up so fast that you couldn't even see it. If it was a bear...a bear wouldn't go that fast.

Grover; Was this at night?

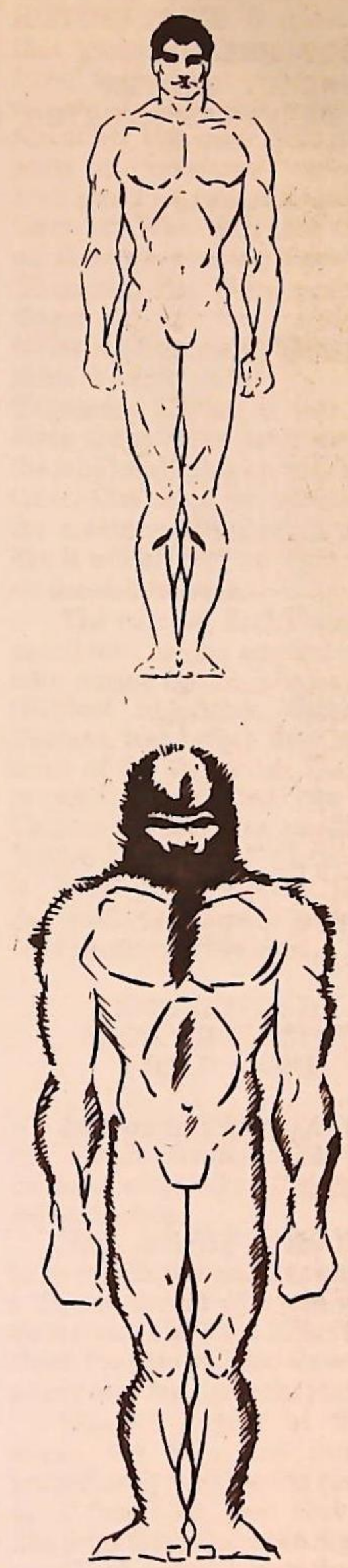
Thomas; No, this was during the daytime. We all sat down to rest and smoke a cigarette, then we started back down the trail, near dark. We kept noticing that something was following us. We kept hearing these noises, like twigs breaking and brush cracking. Tom shined the light back and there wasn't a thing back there. We kept walking and walking and I just kept hearing this. I had the feeling that there was something following us and I felt sure there was. So, we got down to camp and got back to the jeep and started to light a fire. When I started to chop some wood we heard a noise and shined the light across the pond and saw those yellowish-green eyes. It was enough to kind of scare a guy.

Grover: How far apart were they?

Thomas: About like ours.

Grover: Were they closer or wider apart than ours?

Thomas: I'm not really too sure for it was a long ways. Like a guy asked us how tall it was. What do they expect us to do? Go up and measure it or something?



So I yelled to Tom and he shined the light again and he seen the same thing, the eyes. He went and sat back down and I put some more wood on the fire. If you go up there you can see where I cut up a bunch of wood off this log. Tom got back up and shined the light and we seen the whole body.

Grover: In the light?

Thomas: Yes. Then we realized what we saw, it turned its head and that was enough to scare us right there. We wouldn't want to say paranoid, yet we started getting our gear and started to take off. Junior (i.e. Jerry Lazzar, 16, Editor) started getting the sleeping bags and lantern and just when junior started back out of the tent the thing just screamed. We just grabbed our things that were close by and took off. Before that Tom fired seven times.

Grover: It screamed when you shined the light on it?

Thomas: No.

Grover: Did it scream when you were in the tent fooling around or when?

Thomas: No. Me and Tom weren't in the tent. Junior was in the tent. We were prepared to shoot if it would have came at us.

Grover: What do you think caused it to scream then?

Thomas: Well we had some meat sitting there on the table. That could have been it. The next day when the sheriff went up there the meat was gone, so something ate off it.

Grover: The bone was in the same place on the table?

Thomas: No, it was down on the ground. Although, it could have been a squirrel...I'm not sure. We didn't go back up that night, we were too scared to go back that night. All I know is I won't sleep out in a tent again.

Moments later Dick Grover asked Earl Thomas to elucidate on the features of the "creature."

Grover: Maybe you can describe to us what it looked like.

Thomas: It was about 8, 9, or 10 feet tall, it was big, it was dark out, this thing was dark and furry.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Apparently, the estimate of size was based on a visual comparison between the "creature" and nearby tree limbs.
Grover: What did the head look like?
Thomas: Like I said, it was like ours.
Grover: Did it have a neck that was stretched out?
Thomas: No, not really.
Grover: Did it have a head that was sitting down on the shoulders or did it look like ours?
Thomas: It was like ours, only bigger, thick.
Grover: Could you see the hands at all?
Thomas: No. They were hanging down at its side...very long arms.
Grover: Did you shine the light up and down the creature as you seen it?
Thomas: When you shined the light it would show up the whole creature in the light.
Grover: It was a real bright light then?
Thomas: Yes, that's why we took it with us.
Grover: What was the head shaped like?
Thomas: Like I said it was like ours.
Grover: Did it have any features about the top that you noticed particularly?
Thomas: I didn't notice too much. (laughter)
Grover: About how far away do you think it was?
Thomas: About 100 yards. Also the day we went up there we found birds all torn up and entrails in the lake like something was feeding there. The Deputy Sherriff that helped investigate said he didn't doubt this story too much, for he seen one too, standing on the side of the road a while back.
Grover: You said the eyes were greenish-yellow?
Thomas: Yes, they were glowing in the light, just like the eyes of a deer or elk would reflect.
EDITORS NOTE: It appears that this "glowing" effect may be attributed to the tapetum membrane as in cats. I make this point to differentiate this case from other reports of "creatures" reported to have eyes that glow internally.
Grover: When you took the light off there was nothing there?
Thomas: Yes, there was nothing there.
Grover: How many times did you shine the light on it?
Thomas: I think it was two or three times. Then later we turned the jeep headlights on and it wasn't there. One thing we noticed when the creature screamed, it sounded like it was all over us. That is when we decided to leave.

The witness, Earl Thomas, also mentioned having smelled a strong odor during certain phases of their "Bigfoot" experience. According to Thomas, just before they 'split the scene of the encounter, they began to smell a very bad odor which Thomas described as smelling like "rotten loggers sox," whatever that is. When they returned the next day with the deputy sheriff, the odor permeated the area.

COMMENTS BY DICK GROVER ON FIELD WORK

As soon as this report reached me, I made arrangements to visit the area where the alledged sighting took place.

Upon arriving at the Rimrock Lake region, we made contact with a deputy sheriff who was not only kind enough to let us interview him about the case but also showed me a a very easy trail into the region.

When I arrived at the area where the boys had camped, I immediately set about to gather data. I found an area that looked like something had been digging in search of roots. I also found the mutilated birds and indentations in the area that looked like tracks. These "indentations" were not catable because of the gooey type of mud, very soft, due to the rains that we had had. Too, there was much disturbance of the general ground area as elk had moved through leaving many of its own tracks besides disturbing the surrounding ground area.

Nothing further was found.

Upon leaving the scene of the "experience" on the night in question, Earl Thomas said they almost lost their jeep over a cliff. I saw the cliff. If the boys had gone over that cliff, it appears unlikely that they would have survived. I estimate the drop at about a hundred and fifty yards to the bottom.

PROJECT DISCOVERY

Project Discovery was formed in January 1973 by Dick Grover. Mr. Grover has had 7 years of experience in the investigation and study of Bigfoot reports. The goals of Project Discovery are:

1. *To solve the mystery of the Bigfoot or Sasquatch for the benifit of man.*
2. *To bring together as a powerful force, investigators and people who wish to specialize in solving the mystery without any thought of monetary gain.*
3. *To coordinate and deseminate information for the people at large.*
4. *To develop a mutual trust between active people in the group and those living in Bigfoot regions.*

This article first published by **PHENOMENA RESEARCH REPORT CENTER.** *The Center would like to hear from anyone wishing to make a report on Bigfoot or UFO activity. Call(206) 722-3000, Mr. Robert Gribble, Director, or write to: Phenomena Research Center, Box 1807,Seattle, Washington 98111.* □

BIGFOOT-
DARWIN'S 'MISSING LINK'?

Man's link with the past may be centered around the Northwestern United States, an area commonly called "Bigfoot Territory," where surviving members of a primate species thought long extinct, may be thriving.

BY PAUL HUGLI

No legend has caused as much interest and excitement as those gigantic creatures with the seventeen inch feet, the Abominable Snowmen (ABSM).

ABSM can be broken into two major types: 1) the true Abominable Snowman or the Yeti, native to snow covered mountains of the Himilayas, Tibet and China; 2) and the Bigfoot or Sasquatch of North America.

The true ABSM, *Kung-la* or *Yeti* is about 7 or 8 feet tall, covered with red or white fur, stands semi-erect, and looks, generally, like a huge ape. Casts of the "creature's" foot show a length of about sixteen inches, with semi-opposable toes (which will be discussed later). No authentic evidence, other than footprint casts exist to give us any idea as to the physical appearance of the Yeti.

The North American ABSM, *Bigfoot*, stands about eight feet tall, is an "orthograde" (walks erect), covered with black or brown hair, and weighs about 400 pounds. Plaster-of-paris casts of *Bigfoot's* feet are numerous, with one reported to be 15 inches long, 8 inches wide at the ball and 5 inches at the heel. The feet are very human-like in appearance, with a non-opposable great toe. This foot would take a size 21 shoe.

FILM

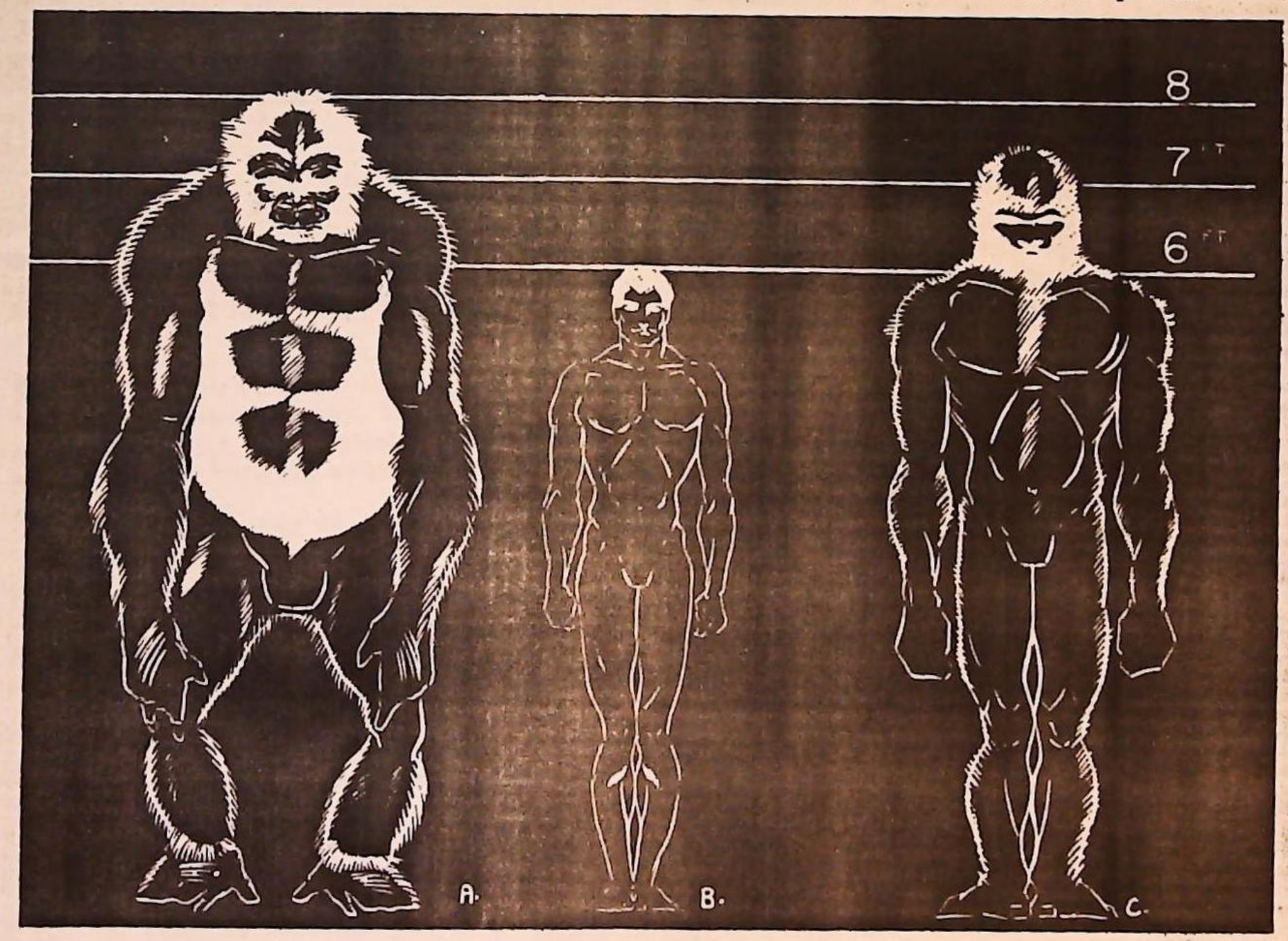
Roger Patterson's 12 second film is the classic example of *Sasquatch*. The seven foot creature of Patterson's film walked erect, was covered with thin, black hair (except at the eyes and the soles of the feet), had heavy buttocks, large drooping breasts, a peak of hair at the rear of the head, three feet at the spanned shoulders and 15 inch feet.

Everything in the film fitted the reports of *Bigfoot* and *Sasquatch*. The peak on the rear of the creature's head evidences a bony, sagittal crest commonly found on large, male apes. The bony crest allows for the greater attachment of the large jaw muscles needed to chew fibrous plant material. This "crest" continues to confuse the experts, because the "sagittal crest" is indigenous to a male creature, while the large drooping breasts are characteristically female. The experts fail to take into consideration however, that Patterson's 12 second film is too fuzzy to tell whether or not the peak of hair is the outline of a "sagittal crest" or, just a "puff" of hair blowing in the wind.

ICHNOLOGY (footprints)

The footprints made by the *Yeti* are often distorted by the surrounding snow, which makes it difficult to obtain accurate casts of the ABSM's feet. Yet, a few excellent casts have been made to reveal a foot that is pentidactyl (five-toed) with a semi-opposable great toe. An "opposable toe" is one which is at a right angle to the other toes and the plane of the foot; while a non-opposable toe is in line with the other toes, as is the human foot. It is evident that the true ABSM or *Yeti* is not a plantigrade (walks on the flat of its feet), but instead walks on the lateral or side portion of its foot. Unfortu-

Illustration (left) depicts the foot design of man (1); gorilla (2); Yeti (3); and Bigfoot (4); Note similarity between man's and Bigfoot's feet. Note similarity between species. Although many Bigfoot photos have been taken, creature remains elusive to countless probes.



This illustration represents comparative height between Yeti (A); Man (B); and Bigfoot (C). Also, included in the drawing is the general body shape and proportions of the three.

BIGFOOT, MISSING LINK OR CHIMPANZEE?

As we went to press, we received this photo of the creature which was discovered by Michael Miller. Zoologists who have examined the creature believe it to be a member of the chimp family of apes. The remarkable features of "Oliver"(as he is called by his owner), is the fact that he can walk very erect, has the ability to understand more than the average chimp and last but perhaps most important, his features are very human-like.

At this writing, tests are being conducted and a full report will be released as soon as it is available.

Michael Miller who purchased the creature from an unidentified person in upstate New York, feels that there is much more to Oliver than meets the eye. He feels that it's possible that the creature may be associated with Bigfoot or that Oliver may be the missing link belonging to Darwin's theory of evolution.

In any event, we will have some answers when tests on Oliver are completed *(the editor)*

nately, footprint casts are the only form of physical evidence that we have to prove the existence of the *Yeti.*

This type of foot arrangement (the Yeti) would suggest a creature with a foot similar to that of an ape's. The gorilla's foot has a more opposable toe than the Yeti, but it also walks on the side of its feet.

The Sasquatch's foot is pentidactyl, with a non-opposable great toe. The plantigrade nature of Bigfoot's feet suggest a very human-like foot, though Bigfoot seems to lack a pronounced arch in its feet.

In both cases, the Yeti and Sasquatch, it has been suggested that their footprints are actually those of a bear. This is unlikely, because the bear's largest toe is at the middle of the foot and not on the inner side, as with the creatures in question.

SCATOLOGY (feces)

A few examples of Sasquatch's excrement had been collected in Northern California; usually near the Bigfoot's "bed" which is composed of pine branches and ferns stuck together with urine and feces, and are said to have a potent stench. An analyses of Bigfoot's scat (feces) reveals the remains of California fresh water plants and the eggs of a parasite known to exist only in some North American tribes, pigs of South and South-Western China, and people of South-Western China. No known samples of Yeti feces have been found.

TRICHOLOGY (hair)

There are five different types of hair, based on microscopic structure, and only mammals have true hair. To a good trichnologist a strand of hair can be identified as belonging to a certain animal, based upon its structure and the scientist's knowledge. One such expert is Dr. F. Martin Duncan, who examined some hair found in the bed of a Sasquatch. Dr. Duncan stated that the hairs did not belong to any known *species of North American mammals, and could possibly be those of an unknown large primate. No reliable samples of Yeti hair has surfaced.*

No known bones or skeletons of any type of ABSM have been found. Bones would provide an excellent source of scientific research. Yet, the fact that no bones have been found is not proof against the existence of the Yeti or Sasquatch, because bones are not readily found in nature. When was the last time you came across a skeleton? Actually, nature does a good job taking care of her own and dead matter is decomposed rather quickly. Also, it is possible, that ABSM bones have been found but not recognized for what they are. **WHAT ARE THESE CREATURES?**

Before we can talk about what these creatures are and where they might be in the evolution of things, we must first have an understanding of man's evolutionary process.

During the Oligocene, a little over 30 million years ago, one branch of the primate tree split into two directions...one led to the great apes (gorilla, chimp, orangutan) and the other led to modern man. The pongid (apes) branch is as specialized as the Hominid (human) branch; in other words, men and apes evolved

from a common ancestor and not; as commonly believed, that man evolved from apes.

The beginning of the Miocene, 25 million years ago, saw a line of creatures (Dyropithecus), developing off the ancestoral stalk, that would lead to Gigantopithecus. Early Gigantopithecus roamed India some 12 million years ago, during the Pliocene, and seemed to have died out some 5 million years ago in China. This ancestoral form, which is believed to have adapted for ground feeding in open areas, is known only from a few jaw bones and teeth. This creature was ape-like and would be placed with the great apes if it still existed.

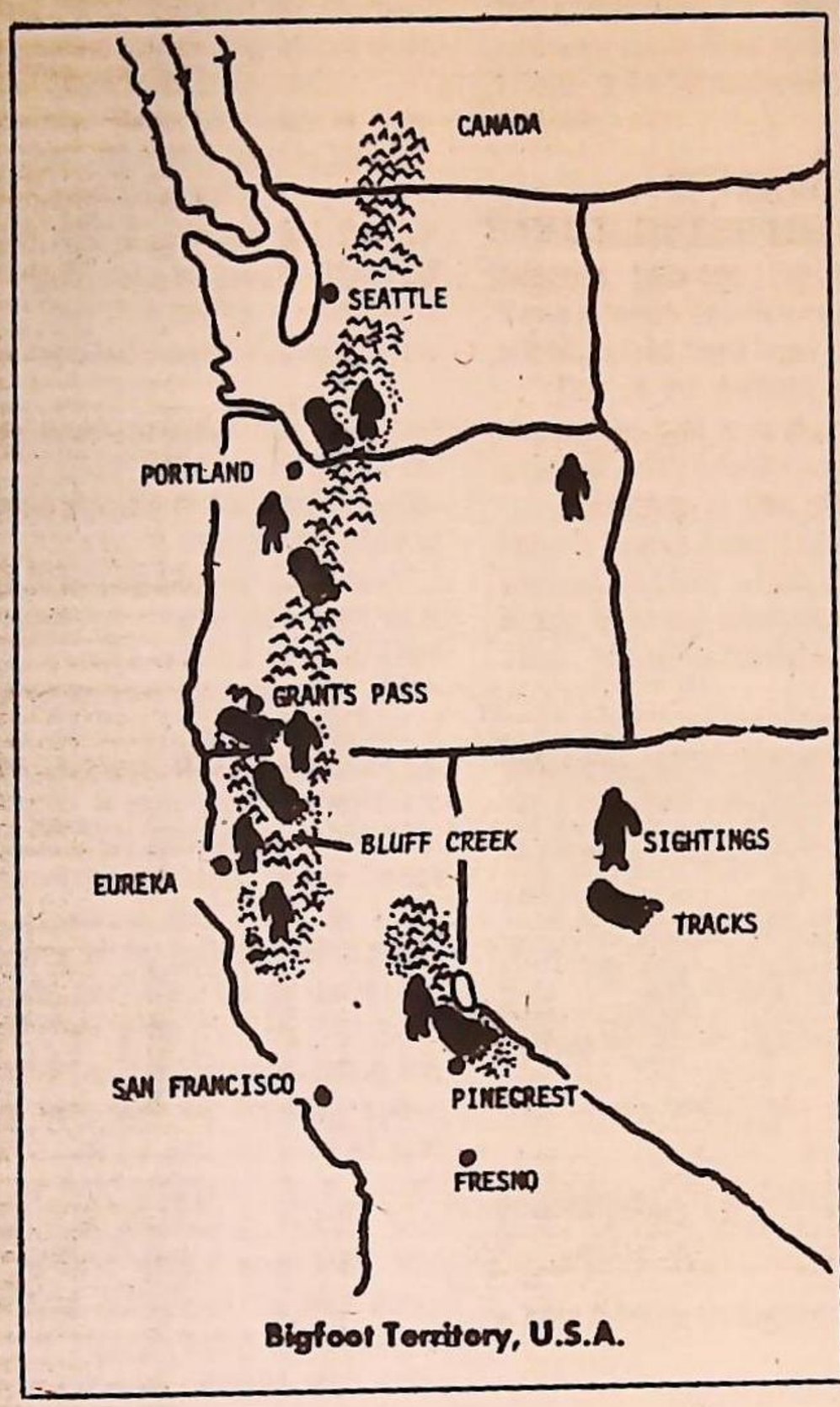
Somewhere during the late Miocene or early Pliocene two lines branched off of man's ancestoral line. The two end products (both which became extinct during the late Pliocene) were Australopithecus and Paranthropus. Both groups lived as vegetarians in a woodlands-like habitat, and are considered by some experts as being the same species.

Therefore, from our above discussion and the chart, we can see that our choices for the ancestoral role of the Yeti and Sasquatch are Gigantopithecus, Paranthropus (or Australopithecus), Java man (Homo sapiens neanderthalenis). Right off we can eliminate Java man and Neanderthal man from our discussion, because they are both too human in nature to be the ancestors of the ABSM; with the former being only a seperate species of the human genus Homo, and the later is but a "fossil" sub-species of Homo sapien or modern man. Hence, we are left with Gigantopithecus and Paranthropus...and they are not bad choices.

The semi-opposable great toe, slouch stature, and general ape-like appearance of the Yeti would suggest a kinship to Gigantopithecus. Two facts seems to bear this theory out: 1) Giganthopithecus was probably an aberranted ape common to the area of China and India...the very location of many Yeti report. 2) The Giganthopithecus was adapted to feeding in open areas...as the Yeti must be. In other words, the true ABSM or Yeti is probably a giant rock ape unknown to science.

On the other hand, the Sasquatch or Bigfoot is more than just an ape and something less than a man. The non-opposable great toe, heavy buttocks (only found on man), large breasts, and erect walk gives this creature a very human appearance ...almost an aberrant-human appearance. We have a good candidate for Bigfoot's ancestor in Paranthropus, who was very human-like but failed to survive. As with the Sasquatch, Paranthropus inhabited the woodlands. Possibly, Sasquatch reached North America via the Siberian-Alaskan land bridge that provided the passages for the American Indians some one million years ago.

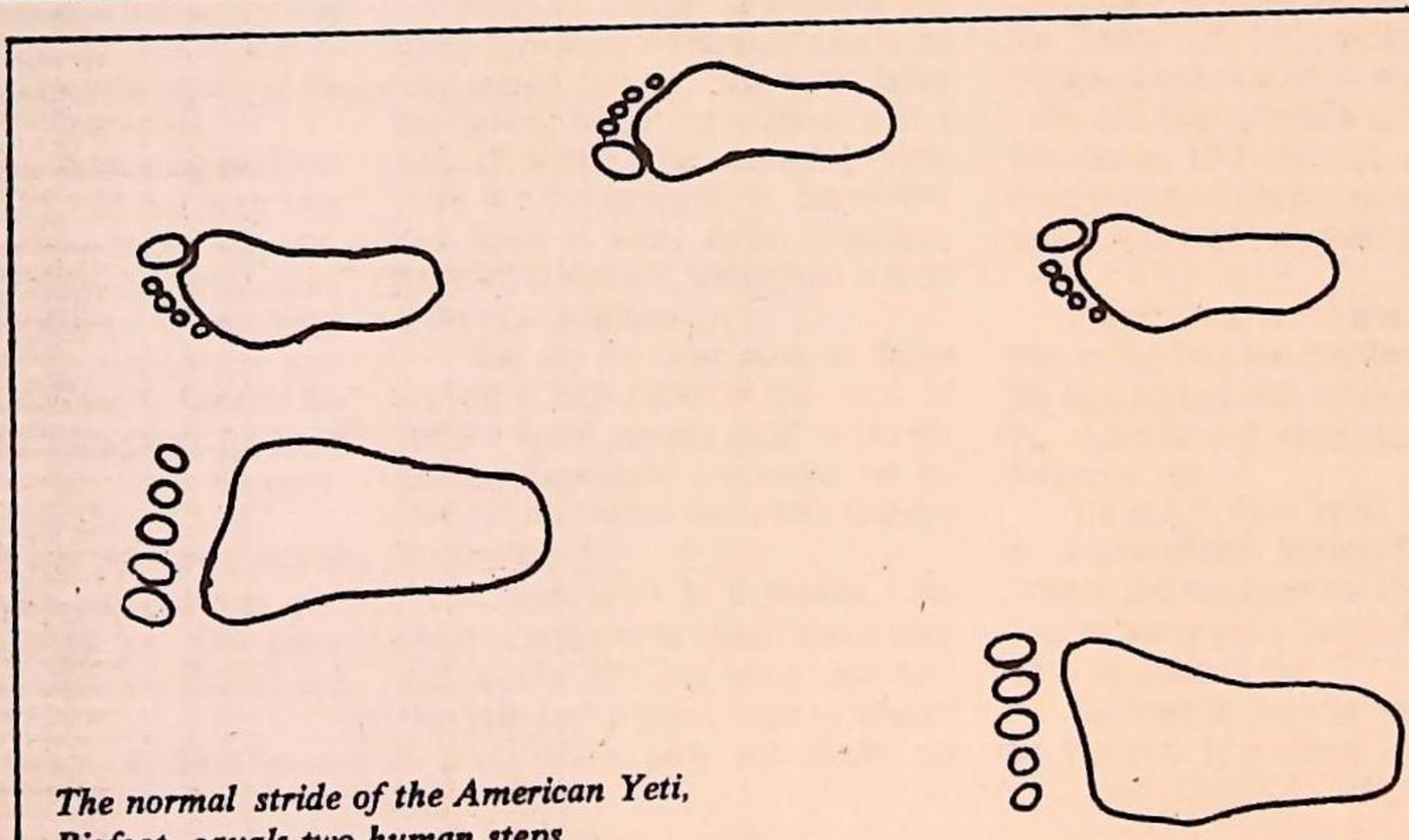
The Sasquatch and Yeti may be surviving members of primate species thought to be extinct for the last 2 to 5 million years, which have undergone little adaptive change. The Sasquatch may be an ideal example of the classic, for lack of a better name, "missing link" in man's evolutionary process. We could learn a lot about man's past from the capture of a Bigfoot-type creature. The future may hold such an event. Man's past may lie in his future. □



Bigfoot Territory, U.S.A.

This should give you a good idea as to the size of Bigfoot. Left a footprint of a human size 10 and, right, footprint of Bigfoot found in Bluff Creek, California.

This area of the Northwest United States, Oregon and Southern California is commonly known as "Bigfoot Territory, U.S.A."



The normal stride of the American Yeti, Bigfoot, equals two human steps

STRANGE AND UNKNOWN/ continued from page 10

left by a race that inhabited the southern tip of the United States long before even the Indians arrived on our shores.

Meanwhile, Rene Dahinden of Vancouver, Canada spent ten days in Moscow calling on Soviet scientists

Armed with a suitcase full of giant footprint impressions he sought Soviet aid in tracking down the half-man, half-gorilla creatures reportedly seen throughout the world.

"They were skeptical, but very open minded" Dahinden reported upon his return. He said officials of the Soviet Academy of Sciences have arranged for experts to study a film of an alleged "Snowman".

Dahinden says he visited the USSR because there have been some established scientists who have investigated sightings of the Yeti in the mountain regions of Pamir and Caucaus. Soviet evidence includes reports of sightings by shepherds, cattlemen, doctors and teachers. According to one report published in the Soviet press a Snowman was killed in 1925 when he was hit by bullets while caught between Red and White troops during the civil war.

In 1966 the officer commanding the Red units, Maj. Gen. M. Topilsky, told a symposium that he and his men at first thought the dead creature was a "counter-revolutionary dressed up, but the doctor of the unit and I examined him and I became convinced he was some kind of very strange being resembling a human being but all covered with thick wool."

Similar reports were tracked down by the USSR Geographical Society who investigated some 219 observations of the creature over a five year period.

One of the most fascinating incidents involved a creature who had been kept under close guard for a number of years. Residents of the village of Tkhina claim that in the early 1870's a female "Yeti" was captured by the townspeople who were amazed to discover that despite the apparent wildness of the creature it could be trained to do certain chores like carrying water, wood and sacks of grain.

Zana, as she was nicknamed, was of enormous build and her body was covered with thick black hair. She never learned to talk but could only mumble and squeal.

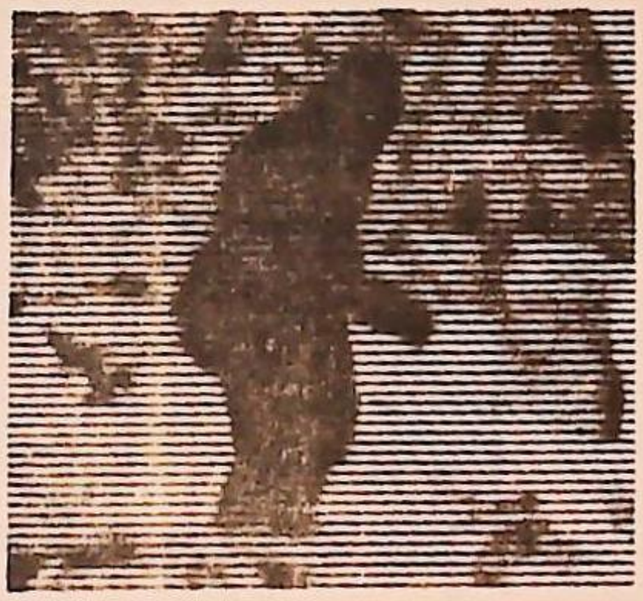
When Zana died in the 1880s the entire village attended her funeral as she was very much liked by those living in the village who considered her the town mascot.

YETI AND UFOS

As we pointed out earlier certain correlations between the appearances of these strange Yeti-like creatures and UFO activity areas have been made.

One of the earliest accounts of this nature was told to author Brad Steiger by a former Army Intelligence officer.

According to this officer, his grandfather's journal dated 1888 tells of an eyewitness, incident which details the interaction of these creatures, certain Indian tribes, and UFOs during the last century.



Is This A Photo Of Bigfoot Or, Is It A Hoax?

States Mr. Steiger: "Grandfather was somewhere along the Hunboldt Line in the "Big Woods Country" where his father and several hands had wintered with a tribe of Indians after delivering some cattle to a fort farther north. Grandfather was fluent in many Indian languages, proficient in sign talk, and partook of most of the tribal activities.

"One day he came upon an Indian carrying a large platter of raw meat. At first the Indian seemed afraid to answer Grandpa's questions concerning his errand, but the redman finally bade Grandpa to follow him."

He was taken to a shallow cave where he was shown a beast whose body was covered with long, shiny black hair. The "man-like" creature made no attempt to attack either party and simply sat cross-legged on the dirty stone floor eating the food that had been provided. Steiger says his informants's grandfather described the creature as being built like "a big, well-developed man, except for its lack of neck and its long shody hair." Its head seemed to lay directly upon its shoulders.

After bribing the Indian guide with several pounds of tobacco a compass and an axe, the officer's grandfather was told of the creature's origin.

"Crazy Bear," as the creature was called by the Indians, had been brought to the Big Woods from the stars. A "small moon" had flown down like a soaring eagle and had landed on a plateau a few miles away from the Indian's encampment. The beast in the cave and two other crazy bears had been flung out of the "moon" before the craft had once again soared off to the stars.

The Indian told Grandfather that other "bears" had been left in the vicinity over the years. The Indian guide and several of his fellow villagers had occasionally seen the "men" who put the crazy bears off the "moons". They did not look like the hairy creatures, but looked like men such as themselves. The "men" from the "small moon" had shorter hair than the Indians though, and they wore shiny clothing. They had waved to the Indians in a friendly manner, closed a door in the side of their ship and flown away."

It was believed among the tribe that the "crazy bears" were put there to bring them luck and they did everything within their power to make certain that one of the "bears" did not wander off or get kidnapped by a rival Indian settlement.

We can only speculate as to what all this means. UFO sightings continue to come in each month and along with them reports of strange hairy humanoids.

Readers who would like to read further on Big Foot will find **The Search for Big Foot** packed with information regarding sightings and encounters with the American Yeti.

The author, Peter Byrne, is the founder of International Wildlife Conservation Society and has been tracking down Big Foot for many years The book is published by Acropolis Books.

We hope to have an interview with Mr. Byrne in a future issue. □

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